the quantity of synthetic substitutes of jute products being imported during 1991–92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): Synthetic raw material is used for the manufacture of a variety of end products hence it is not possible to quantify the extent of its imports for manufacture of substitutes to jute products.

Income Tax Clearance Certificates to NRIS

2854. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are encouraging Non–resident Indian's to establish industries in the country;

(b) whether NRIs have to obtain Income–tax Clearance Certificate when they stay in India for over three months;

(c) whether the Government are aware that it is difficult for Non–resident Indians to complete the formalities to establish industry, which involves a lot of work within the period of three months;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to extend the period of their stay beyond three months;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Under Section 230 of Income–tax Act, persons domiciled in India were required to obtain clearance from direct tax authorities if the period of their stay in India exceeded ninety days. This period has since been extended to 120 days by the Department of Revenue by a Notification dated 13th March, 1990.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Production of Defence Clothing in Ordnance Clothing Factory, Shahjahanpur

2855. SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per report of Quality Control Department the quality of Defence clothing produced by the produced by the private sector factory has deteriorated in comparison to the production made by the ordnance clothing factory, Shahjahanpur;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to arrange the re–production of those 18 items in this factory which were withdrawn in 1986; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) is responsible for ensuring quality of clothing supplied to the Defence Services. From the reports received from this organisation, it is not possible to draw any generalised conclusion that the quality of Defence clothing produced by the Private Sector has deteriorated in comparison to the production made by the Ordnance Clothing Factory, Shahajahanpur.

(b) and (c). In consonance with the policy to make optimal use of the national industrial infrastructure a number of low-technology and low-value added items were identified for off-loading to the civil sector in a phased manner. 17 clothing items were also identified for off-loading in phase I. A reversal of this decision is not presently contemplated.

[*English*]

Augmentation of Size of Merchant Fleet

2856. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to augment the size of the countries merchant fleet to reduce pressure on foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPROT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This Ministry have taken a number of steps to assist Indian Shipping Companies. These include:-

(a) Streamlining of licensing procedures which has enabled quicker ship acquisition in the flucatuating International Market.

(b) Revised age norms for acquisition of second-hand vessels;

(c) Permitting Shipowners to acquire bulk carriers of 10-30,000 DWT without approaching the Ship Acquisition Licensing Committee;

(d) Proposals for replacement of existing tonnage will not be placed before the Ship Acquisition Licensing Committee, if the replacement proposal is within 25% in excess of or less than the tonnage to be replaced.

(e) Permitting Private Shipping Companies to place orders on Indian shipyards without reference to assessed requirements.

(f) Simplification of procedure for charter out of vessels by shipping companies.

Exports and Imports

2857. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of export and import targeted for the current financial year and the percentage of these to the Gross Domestic Production;

(b) the actual performance during this year so far;

(c) whether the Exim scrips have been found advantageous for encouraging exports; and

(d) if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The export target for the fiscal year 1991-92 was not fixed, in view of the uncertainties in the global trading environment, collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union, a major trading partner of India, and the time lag for the far reaching policy reforms to have full impact on exports. No targets are fixed for imports.

(b) India's exports to General Currency area (GCA) countries amounted to Rs. 27133 crores during April-December, 1991 as compared to Rs. 18785 crores during April-December, 1990, thereby registering